

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 2, 2013

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Darryl Segina with the following Members of Council present:

RC-1 PRESENT: JAMIE BREWSTER-FILOTEI, FAWN WALKER-MONTGOMERY, KEITH SOLES, DARRYL SEGINA, DANIEL CARR, RICHARD DELLAPENNA

ABSENT: DALE McCALL

Ms. Williams said Mr. McCall is unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Reverend Boniface Igba, Director of Spiritual Development at Auberle, led the prayer.

Mr. Segina said also present were Mayor Michael Cherepko, City Administrator Matthew Gergely, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash and members of the Administration. He said the Sergeant at Arms tonight is Police Chief Bryan Washowich.

Mr. Segina said before they begin their meeting, they have Firefighter Jim Young here who would like to make a presentation.

Mr. Young said he is here today in remembrance of the cancer victims from Breast Cancer Awareness. He said each October, the Firefighters have an event where one of their Firefighters custom designs a Fire Department T-shirt, which is then offered for sale. He said the T-shirts have the Tiger logo on them. He said he would like to offer T-shirts to the Council, Mayor and Mr. Gergely. He said the Firefighters actually do this to collect funds for Breast Cancer Awareness. He said if anyone wants to purchase one of these for themselves or their families, they are

very popular in school in October. He said the Firefighters wear them on duty. He said it is something for them to give back. He said he would like to make sure each one of the Council people receives a complimentary shirt. He said he has a bunch of them here for each one of them tonight. He handed out the T-shirts. He said if anyone in the audience wants any of these T-shirts, they can be purchased on the McKeesport Firefighters webpage. He said just google McKeesportfirefighters.org. He said thank you very much.

Mr. Segina said the Firemen are involved in a lot of charitable causes within the City and very, very active. He said he would like to thank them for the work that they do, especially with the breast cancer awareness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: **Mr. Dellapenna moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of Council on September 4, 2013, at 7:00 p.m."**

RC-2	YEAS:	BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, SOLES, SEGINA, CARR, DELLAPENNA.....	6
	NAYS:	NONE.....	0

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Received a copy of a letter sent by Matthew Gergely, City Administrator, to Jay McKelvey, President of Council, Dravosburg Borough, RE: Invoice – Community Policing – Fiscal Year 2013 Payment.

- Received a memorandum from Mayor Michael Cherepko, RE: New Board Member. The Mayor is seeking Council's advice and consent for the appointment of Mary Smitley to fulfill the term of Frank Bazzone on the Municipal Authority.

MOTION: Ms. Walker-Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To approve the appointment of Mary Smitley to the Municipal Authority of the City of McKeesport Board."

COMMENTS:

- Mr. Segina said he asked Mayor Cherepko if he would present Ms. Smitley to the Council so that they could meet her and if there were any questions about her, they could ask her at that time. He said it is written in the resolution as part of the advice and consent of Council to do that. He said Council welcomes most of the people who come to the authorities or commissions to serve. He said Council welcomes them wholeheartedly because it is very difficult to get people. He said the courtesy of meeting this person ... at the very least ... they should be presented to the Council so they at least know who they are voting for.

RC-3 YEAS: BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, SOLES, CARR, DELLAPENNA .. 5
 NAYS: NONE..... 0
 ABSTAIN:SEGINA 1

Mr. Segina said he is abstaining for the reason he just explained.

- Received a memorandum from Mary Ann Popovich, Chairman of the McKeesport Planning Commission, RE: Planning Commission Meeting to be held on October 3, 2013.
- Received a copy of a letter sent by Mark Wolosik, Division Manager, Department of Administrative Services, Election

Division, County of Allegheny, to J. Jason Elash, RE:
November 5, 2013 Municipal Election.

- Received a memorandum from Mayor Michael Cherepko, RE: Street Re-naming. The ceremony renaming Water Street to Bendel Way will be held on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m.
 - Mayor Cherepko said just so everyone is aware, that is the time that the family felt would be best for them to get together. He said if for some reason that changes, he will notify them immediately. He said as of this time, that is the tentative date.
- Received a memorandum from Bryan J. Washowich, Chief of Police, RE: September 2013 Statistics.
- Received the Fire Report from the McKeesport Fire Department, Fire Chief Kevin Lust.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Cherepko said he just has a few things. He said rumors are already flying around regarding Halloween. He said at their Department Head meeting, they agreed that Trick or Treating will be Halloween night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. He said he has already gotten calls where people said they were changing it to this day or that day and he would like to eliminate that right now. He said Halloween Trick or Treating will be on October 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Mayor Cherepko said they may have seen in the newspaper today where they are very grateful to have received their ARAD funding again. He said for those who do not know what ARAD is, it is the funding that comes from the one percent sales tax in Allegheny County and the City is a recipient of some of those funds. He said they have operating funds that went up roughly \$7,000 from last year.

He said the operating fund is approximately \$670,000. He said that money runs Renzie Park and helps them do the things in the Park that are necessary to hold the events and activities that take place there. He said not only do the residents of the City get to enjoy these events but also the surrounding communities. He said it is really a gem that the City has out there and they are looking forward to improving that in every way possible. He said in addition to the regular operating funds, they also received \$80,000 in capital improvement funds. He said they are very grateful for that. He said both numbers ... last year they \$100,000 which was a much larger amount than in prior years and even \$80,000 is still up from the typical annual \$40,000 to \$50,000 that the City typically received over the last several years. He said those are funds available for improvements such as the walking trail and Sycamore Drive ... the road that runs along Jimmy Long field. He said the City made some improvements to Jimmy Long field this year and put in new dugouts. He said they will be taking out the old dugouts and have a nice façade behind there. He said they will continue with the upgrades to that field. He said it has been quite some time since work was done there. He said the previous dugouts had walls that have been collapsed for quite a few years now. He said they are looking to continue to enhance Renzie Park. He said they are going to do other things through other sources of revenue. He said it is an ongoing project. He said Renzie Park is truly an asset to the City and enjoyed by so many people. He said they are very grateful that they received the funds this year and thank ARAD for that.

- Mr. Segina said he would like to inject that he is a little disappointed in the amount they got. He said it is no reflection on the Mayor's Administration. He said he knows they have tried every year to secure more funds there but he noticed more and more the trend of out of towners coming in to use the Park, which they are ... and it is okay for them to use that and fine that they come and enjoy the Park. He said he thinks because

the City is assuming so many people in the Park are from out of town, that ARAD would give them more money to keep upgrading the Park, do more preventative maintenance and also to add to the enhancements they have out there. He said he goes to the concerts and he knows that about 80% of the people are from out of town. He said that is the same with International Village. He said even the Renzie Seniors ... they are probably a 50/50 blend of out of town and McKeesport residents out there. He said he just wishes that they would acknowledge that the Park is such an important asset out there because of the number of people that come there and that ARAD would give the City more money to keep it up to date. He said there are some things that can be done out there yet. He said the lack of funds hurts them. He said the proportion of money that is going from ARAD is unequal if they look at what they are giving to the City of Pittsburgh. He said McKeesport is like the lone wolf out here hoping to get some crumbs from them. He said those amounts have stayed mostly in the same area and he wishes they would increase them. He said there are more and more Pittsburgh institutions that are asking for money and McKeesport is sitting there just hoping they have enough money left for them when it comes up. He said it is no reflection on the Mayor or his Administration but he just wishes they would give them more consideration for the amount of people coming into Renzie and to McKeesport.

- Mayor Cherepko said he would like to add to that. He said when he talks about being grateful, he thinks there has been talk about the ARAD money going away. He said it is to the point where they had to send some written testimony in regards to continue the ARAD funding. He said Senator Brewster has been fighting hard for that also. He said he thinks in the grand scheme of things that when there is talk of the money going away, he is extremely excited that they still

received an increase in operating funds. He said as Mr. Segina said, it would be great to get double that but in all reality compared to years past, that is why he wanted to be very clear that they are very grateful for the opportunity to continue to improve Renzie Park. He said that is a big fear of the City.

- Mr. Segina said the County does have an obligation through ARAD with the one percent sales tax; it has to be targeted at the assets.
- Mayor Cherepko said the City of McKeesport does not have to get that.
- Mr. Segina said yes they do because they are regional. He said the City signed an agreement to be regional with them. He said as long as they have PNC Park and Heinz Field down there, they are paying on those mortgages, they are not going to eradicate the ARAD.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is not true. He said he doesn't know how else to say it but the contract is up in 2014. He said there is no guarantee that it is going to continue past that point. He said let the record show that the Mayor is extremely grateful for the money the City received from ARAD and the efforts moving forward. He said they hope to continue to get that funding because there is no guarantee.
- Mr. Segina said there is nothing wrong with asking for more. He said that is all he is saying.
- Mayor Cherepko said Youth CAST is one of the large grants that the City received through their Community Opportunity Specialist, Keino Fitzpatrick. He said Mr. Fitzpatrick has been working with the Select Committee on Crime and Violence, the Ministerium and other parties involved regarding generating revenue for the youth as well as new opportunities. He said Youth CAST is going to be a program that starts off with a core of youth number 24 to 30 youth.

He said that core group will continue to bring other youth into the group so when it is all said and done ... in a nutshell, without going through all the details, there will be a couple hundred young men and women in the community that will be coming off the streets and getting involved with more positive community efforts. He said all too often, when the youth think of community service, they think of it as a punishment. He said what they are trying to do is instill that pride and respect into the community to show that community service is something that they are willing to do. He said many of the people in this room tonight are out there helping out either in their own neighborhoods or are bringing their concerns to the City's attention through the Mayor or Council members. He said community service is something that the youth should view as giving back to the community. He said he thinks this is going to do that. He said the group is leaving for Detroit to do some training and to look at other programs that are similar to what they want to do here. He said they are leaving tomorrow and he hopes they have a safe trip. He said keep them in your prayers as they travel and until they come back home Sunday. He said parents are going with them also, about eight to ten adults, 30 -35 individuals are going on this trip. He said that is one of the grants they received. He said that was through the Heinz Foundation and one of the first grants the City of McKeesport has received from them. He said the Heinz Foundation has funded these programs for quite some time so they are very grateful for that also. He said it is opening up the door for other opportunities that they will be able to build upon that. He said they have a lot of unbelievable people in town, different groups and organizations, that are working hard to get the youth off the streets. He said all too often he hears there is nothing for the youth to do. He said if people would educate themselves a little bit, he thinks there is a lot to do. He said the City tries to update the website. He said they have a group ... and this will be the end of his report ... that he has a proclamation for today. He said he thinks it ties right into this. He said it is the Save Our Youth Program. He said he is going to read through this

but to give them an idea of his personal experience with them ... and a lot of people may not know this but Friday evening he stopped by Penn State Greater Allegheny and they have anywhere from 50 to 80 of the City's youth at Penn State playing basketball on Friday nights instead of being on the streets. He said they play until midnight. He said it is nice to see the kids getting off the streets. He said he has actually seen them on the way home and of course, it is past curfew and he stops and talks to them and they tell him where they were. He said they are so excited and are just on their way home. He said they have been touched by this program. He said when they leave there on Friday nights ... whether it is a mentor, friends or the social aspect of playing basketball or the spiritual aspect, whatever it may be, these youth are being affected in positive ways. He said that is what they are trying to do here in the City. He said he now wants to present this proclamation. He said this is just one small aspect of what Operation Save Our Youth is. He said if he could have Pastor James ... and he is going to ask Councilwoman Fawn Walker-Montgomery to come forward also. He said she is part of Rainbow Temple and the Save Our Youth Program, so he would like her to come up as well as he presents the Proclamation on behalf of the City to Pastor James.

- Mayor Cherepko read the following Proclamation:

Operation Save Our Youth Recognition

Whereas Rainbow Temple's Operation Save Our Youth is a faith-based group which serves as a model for area churches, communities and community organizations to help expand existing programs to better serve youth in the community; and

Whereas the 2013 Recipient of the Small Non-Profit of the Year, Operation Save Our Youth has served the area since 2005; and

Whereas the mission of Operation Save Our Youth is to draw youth into a structured environment, embrace them, build relationships and to encourage and strengthen them by helping them cope with everyday struggles.

Now Therefore, as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, I do hereby deem it an honor and privilege to recognize Operation Save Our Youth.

In Witness Hereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City to be affixed this Second day of October in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen.

- Mayor Cherepko said the last thing he has is that tomorrow evening ... although many of them will be home watching the Pirate Game which they are all very excited about ... he wanted to acknowledge that the Mon River Fleet Women of Achievement tomorrow is honoring several awardees because of their service to the community. He said the City has two of those women in this very room. He said one is Councilwoman Fawn Walker-Montgomery and he thinks they need to give her a round of applause. He said her award is Social Leader. He said the other award is the Lifetime Leader Award and it goes to someone that he actually has the utmost respect for and the one person he can tell them that he answers to in the City of McKeesport, and that is Ms. Patty Williams. He said he wanted to congratulate each of them and he looks forward to tomorrow evening and they definitely deserve their awards. He said that concludes his report.
- Mr. Segina said as long as he has been around here, any Mayor who thinks they are running the City is really clearly not thinking right, because they know who really is the true Mayor around here.
- Mayor Cherepko said he agrees with Mr. Segina.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Ms. Brewster-Filotei said the Mayor stole her thunder. She said she wanted to say congratulations to the ladies and hopes they enjoy their evening tomorrow on both accounts. She said they are much deserved awards.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she wanted to thank the Mayor and Ms. Brewster-Filotei. She said thank you to everyone. She said she doesn't receive that award alone. She said she is definitely receiving it with a lot of the community groups she is involved in and with Council as well. She said she wants to thank them for that. She said she has a question for Chief Washowich and the Mayor might be able to answer it as well. She said she gets a lot of phone calls about the police riding around certain areas. She said she doesn't know if there are any foot patrols anymore and she has asked this question before and the Chief was able to break it down for her that they do ride through certain areas. She said she constantly gets the calls that they never see the police in their neighborhoods. She said she wondered if either of them could talk about the certain areas they do ride through. She said she knows it occurs and she doesn't know if it is possible to ride through every part of the City of McKeesport on a daily basis. She said she is getting the calls. She said she would like to see more of a police presence.
- Mayor Cheripko said absolutely. He said he believes this sometimes comes up for different individuals. He said the one thing that they do is ... the Lieutenants have the brass meetings and the Chief is very clear with the patrols and what is expected. He said they feel that the men and women on the Department do a pretty good job when they are not answering calls. He said he thinks that is the part so often people tend to forget. He said when they are just out there on patrol, they are more likely to see a car going up and down

the street. He said so often though there is one call after another. He said they also target areas where there is more criminal activity according to the reports coming in ... whether it is burglary reports or drug activity. He said the Chief decides on certain details for crime suppression activities and they may focus on certain areas. He said the one thing they are doing is that they feel very comfortable. He said it is hard, to be honest with her, to say that they are covering everything. He said they know they are and feel very comfortable with that. He said one of the things they are doing right now to help express that is they are in the process with the laptops and computer systems that Council approved at last month's meeting, of putting GPS tracking on those. He said that will give them now the evidence, background and factual information so that if someone lives on Fawcett Street in McKeesport and there is a burglary on a certain night, it would be nice to say ... when someone says there are no police around here ... they can now say they had an officer who went through there on a certain time and day. He said they will be able to track where the police go. He said these are things they are doing, not by any means because they think the police officers are not doing that, but because it will give them accountability and help the City show the community more of the factual side. He said he can tell her until he is blue in the face that they are everywhere but no one can see that. He said it will be nice to have the GPS tracking and it is something the Chief and he have talked about since he took office. He said they are very excited about that. He said anyone who has a concern in a certain area, Council people and residents alike, can call and let them know. He said the biggest issue that a lot of people don't quite understand is how many calls the police are answering. He said a lot of times they are not just out on patrol, they are answering one call after another. He said it is possible if they have a busy night responding to calls

that they might miss a couple of streets on patrol ... of course it is possible if they are just responding call after call. He said they do the best they can with the manpower they have. He said that is something they will continue to focus on especially with the GPS mapping.

- Mr. Dellapenna said he had nothing to report.
- Mr. Soles said he had nothing at this time.
- Mr. Carr said he has nothing to report.
- Mr. Segina said he just wanted to address a minor problem to Chief Washowich because he has had several complaints about the arrows that are painted on Pin Oak Drive and down around the tank. He said those arrows are not allowed to be done but he knows they are trying to establish a relationship with Penn State and on the trail itself too. He said can the Chief have them black those things out when they are done. He said they are on the road now and could present a problem for someone who doesn't know their way around and they could think it is a one-way street.
 - Chief Washowich said he will look into it.

CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:

Mr. Segina said would the citizens please come forward when he calls their name and state their name and address.

MICHAEL ROBINSON, 1018 WASHINGTON AVENUE, McKEESPORT, PA 15132. Mr. Robinson said he is here about Renzie Park, Mr. Segina's favorite peeve and his pet peeve as well. He said they build these gates to block off the one road for the children's area. He said he doesn't know about Mr. Segina, but they should not build a door and no walls. He said they have a problem with people who drive around those gates and seem to

want to do that to unload their things. He said he understands that but there are parking lots there. He said they should be carrying their items to where they need them. He said he doesn't understand the problem ... and the gate right now, the main gate that was just built a year ago, there is no lock on it.

- Mr. Segina said he knows what Mr. Robinson is talking about because he is at the Park quite a bit. He said the gate that is up at the other end, they go around that gate and come down that road there. He said that is a play area with the playground there and the wading pool when it is used. He said then the Little Tigers practice down a little further than that. He said there are always people on the road and it is part of the walking trail too. He said he doesn't know what they can do about it Mayor but they can't tell these guys that they can't be down there because they get wise when you tell them that.
- Mayor Cherepko said they can try to put something like big rocks or something there that they cannot drive around. He said he definitely agrees with the fact that it is a safety hazard. He said that is why they put in the other gate.
- Mr. Robinson said the other gate is fine.
- Mayor Cherepko said exactly.
- Mr. Robinson said it is like putting a door and no walls. He said they just go around it.
- Mayor Cherepko said is he talking about the gate that has been there.
- Mr. Robinson said he is talking about both gates really.
- Mr. Segina said Mr. Robinson said there is no lock on the one down on Eden Park Boulevard.
- Mr. Robinson said there is no lock.

- Mr. Segina said they might have just forgotten to put that on.
- Mayor Cherepko said they forgot to put it on. He said the Little Tigers are using it.
- Mr. Robinson said someone actually pulled it all the way past the stop so it is closed. He said he doesn't know why they did that. He said he actually has pictures of it. He said he complained about the other one over by the band shell ... the cables. He said someone broke the lock on that one so they could get out or get in.
- Mr. Segina said he is not sure either. He said is Mr. Carr aware of that.
- Mr. Carr said he knows they recently lost the lock on the Eden Park Boulevard side and he did know that the one over by the band shell was bad.
- Mr. Robinson said somebody put a lock on there now. He said there is still no lock on the Eden Park Boulevard gate.
- Mr. Carr said he knows that one was missing. He said they are aware of that and are supposed to replace that lock.
- Mr. Robinson said that has been a week.
- Mr. Carr said it has to be the same lock as all the other locks and they can't just go get any lock.
- Mayor Cherepko said he is going to text the Public Works Director now and they will deal with that right away.
- Mr. Segina said what they are doing is driving down between the gate on the upper part there and the MASA memorial there. He said there is one car that does it every night. He said he sees him down there. He said he doesn't even know why he is going down there. He said everyone else walks down there except him and there is also a little truck. He said he thinks they are with Little Tigers.

- Mr. Robinson said but still it is a problem.
- Mr. Segina said it is a safety problem. He said if there is an accident out there, the City then becomes responsible.
- Mr. Robinson said and there are children around there.
- Mr. Segina said because they did do their due diligence and try to create a barrier there that is suitable so they can't get down there. He said he agrees.
- Mayor Cherepko said the gate on the Boulevard
- Mr. Segina said it just needs a lock.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is the only one that is missing a lock.
- Mr. Robinson said that is the only one missing a lock.
- Mayor Cherepko said he is texting the Public Works Director now.
- Mr. Segina said the one behind the band shell needs the cable repaired or a lock on it.
- Mr. Robinson said they put a lock on there just in the last few days.
- Mr. Segina said that is okay then?
- Mr. Robinson said that was down for at least a week. He said if they work there, they should notice these things. He said he doesn't understand this. He said anyways another thing about Renzie Park is speeding on the roads up by the Heritage Center. He said it is marked 10 miles an hour. He said nobody wants them to go 10 miles per hour but at least they should be close. He said they are going 40 miles per hour through there and that is wrong.

- Mr. Segina said they also ignore the stop sign there too coming down at the intersection of Sycamore and Arboretum Drive.
- Mr. Robinson said the employees there have trouble stopping at that stop sign. He said the police that come through there have trouble stopping at that stop sign or going the speed limit.
- Mayor Cherepko said just so they are aware, this was an issue that was brought up to them before and he brought it up at the Department Head meeting and he will once again ... the Chief is here ... he will also bring it up at the Police Department and he will bring it up at the Public Works Department to let them know that this is going on and it is not the first time he has heard it. He said he can assure Mr. Robinson that this is not falling on deaf ears. He said especially as employees they need to lead by example. He said he agrees with Mr. Robinson.
- Mr. Segina said he thinks joining them too are the students from Serra Catholic or those going to or from Penn State. He said they seem to be younger drivers that he noticed.
- Mr. Robinson said even the school bus speeds through there. He said he thought he was dead, it is 10 miles per hour. He said no one goes 10 miles per hour, but it should be close at least 20 or 25 miles per hour.
- Mr. Segina said he thinks reasonably it should be 15 mile per hour.
- Mr. Robinson said exactly.
- Mr. Segina said is there something the Chief can do to change that speed limit going through there to 15 miles per hour. He said at least that is a reasonable speed and still not going too fast.
- Mayor Cherepko said he doesn't think they want to increase the speed limit though.

- Chief Washowich said they can change the speed.
- Mr. Robinson said it is 10 miles per hour right now.
- Mayor Cherepko said he doesn't think they should increase the speed. He said if they are speeding now at 10 miles per hour and you increase it to 15 miles per hour, it will make the problem worse.
- Mr. Robinson said what they need to do is crack down on the speeders. He said if they start giving out tickets when the students are leaving and the faculty are coming through, they will get the message.
- Chief Washowich said he would suggest speed bumps. He said no one likes speed bumps but it is truly the only way to slow cars down.
- Mr. Robinson said it is needed. He said someone is going to get hit.
- Mr. Segina said the insurance company does not look fondly on speed bumps.
- Mayor Cherepko said he agrees because they typically don't do that and he gets calls all the time for speed bumps in neighborhoods and he lets them know that unfortunately they don't do that in the neighborhoods. He said in the Park they could probably get away with it since it is a Park. He said it is something to think about. He said Mr. Segina is right as far as the liability that comes with it. He said people come in and hit a speed bump and even if they were speeding, then the City is held liable for the damage to their car.
- Mr. Robinson said if they are going 10 miles per hour then there shouldn't be any damage to the car.
- Mayor Cherepko said he agrees and that is the ironic part about it. He said they can look into that.

- Mr. Segina said he thinks they need to put their head together. He said if they are going to put some bumps in there, it is up to him but they should be about 15 feet from the stop signs which would make them slow down coming up to the stop sign. He said he may be wrong because he is not a law officer. He said it is something they can think about. He said thank you to Mr. Robinson for his interest.

MAE HUDSON, 2120 JENNY LIND STREET, McKEESPORT, PA 15132. Ms. Hudson said she wanted to address the fact that the City has set limits on memorial displays here in McKeesport. She said she wanted to address that and get an understanding of the limits they are talking about.

- Mr. Segina said they spoke about that in Executive Session yesterday and met on that and they don't know what direction they are going except that they are trying to keep it as simple as possible. He said some of the memorials have been up for a long time. He said you notice the one up on Versailles Avenue and that has been there since Mr. Sims unfortunately lost his life there. He said there are two on Eden Park Boulevard that have been there quite a long time.
- Ms. Hudson said a distraction to who.
- Mr. Segina said it is an eerie reminder of what has happened there too. He said the grieving period is usually only about 3 or 4 days for someone who passes away and then of course you grieve in private after that. He said there has to be some kind of a limit on there because they can't keep throwing teddy bears and candles and putting ribbons around poles to remind people. He said he understands what people are trying to do but there is a limit to that. He said this Council met last night and as far as he knows they decided not to charge ... they were going to have a charge on it ... and not to have any fees or penalties for people who don't remove them. He said they are just asking right now for people to put them up for a maximum of 14 days and then remove them. He said they are not trying to be

disrespectful, they are just trying to be respectful really of other people in town because they have to keep looking at these things that remind them of what happened. He said what is her response to that please.

- Ms. Hudson said how can they put a limit on somebody's grief though.
- Mr. Segina said there is no limit on grief. He said they would have to grieve privately after that. He said public grieving
- Ms. Hudson said her son's memorial is on display here and he just got killed last month. She said
- Mr. Segina said this is a very sensitive issue for them too.
- Mr. Elash said he can assure her as a solicitor that whatever picture the paper used in the paper, there was no discussion of any specific memorial whatsoever.
- Ms. Hudson said why did they use her son's memorial.
- Mr. Segina said the paper did that.
- Mr. Elash said there was no discussion of any one specific memorial.
- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks what happened is that the Daily News was doing a story on this and they just wanted a picture to go with the story. He said he thinks what Council is trying to do is ... and he thinks the important thing for her to understand is that they are not trying to put a limit on her grieving process. He said everyone grieves at different lengths and different ways. He said he thinks it is the exact opposite. He said he thinks what they are trying to do is actually pay their respect to her lost loved one by allowing these corners, these streets and these sidewalks to have things placed on them for two weeks.

- Ms. Hudson said there are no crimes being solved and she feels like this is all they have. She said as far as this City is concerned, this is all they have to hold on to in remembrance of their loved ones and she feels like she should just put it out there like the City don't care.
- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks the City does care.
- Ms. Hudson said she is just putting it out there and in the ...
- Mayor Cherepko said listen ... she is ... by no means is he taking it that way whatsoever. He said he knows she is not being disrespectful and she is still grieving and will be grieving for quite some time. He said he has been grieving with loved ones for years. He said he pays his respects faithfully to the cemetery and it is a different process for everyone. He said he just thinks what is going on is that they are trying to move the City forward and she is right for them to sit around ... and whether the glass is half full or half empty ... as they continue to try to focus on the City moving forward and residents in the community ... she has to understand he gets both ends. He said even today he got both ends. He said he had people like herself who were very upset over this and he understands why. He said she is especially ... she is still grieving. He said so are the other ones too.
- Mr. Segina said but they have had complaints about it too.
- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks also that he just wants her to see it from another side and right now ... he understands why she would not see it that way but he also received phone calls from people saying thank you and they thought it was a great idea. He said they thought it was good because as people are trying to move forward and still have pride in the City, when they drive by and see a memorial that has been there for months and months, some people feel like it is a step backward.

- Ms. Hudson said and there are the ones that have not even called either.
- Mayor Cherepko said absolutely. He said he agrees with her and he is very well aware of it. He said he works extremely closely with the Department and understands ... he is not going to tell her that he knows how she feels because he doesn't. He said he does know that she is very torn right now and this is an extremely sensitive issue and he just wants her to look at in a way where he thinks it is the exact opposite from what some people may have taken this. He said he applauds her for coming in here so calm and just laying it out there and handling herself the way she is. He said he thinks it is the exact opposite. He said he thinks that instead of this Council trying to be disrespectful, they are trying to be as respectful as possible and even saying after two weeks she can keep everything. He said what they get on their end is that they get people saying that this needs to be taken down and they want the City to take it down. He said technically speaking, they know it is a memorial and it means so much more to her than someone else but a lot of times after a teddy bear sits it becomes something it probably should not be but they don't want to disrespect her and this Council does not want to disrespect her. He said that is why they are trying to give her a time so she can come and take everything down and make sure it is taken down and saved.
- Ms. Hudson said this is not personal about having her son on display here?
- Mayor Cherepko said they had nothing to do with that whatsoever. He said he can assure her of that. He said this has been an issue that this Council ... it is so sensitive, and this is not something that they wanted to address but he thinks it had to be because as he said she has not seen it but they are getting so many on the opposite side right now that are saying they are tired of coming out of their house

and leaving for work everyday and being reminded that someone murdered three doors down from where they lived.

- Ms. Hudson said well it keeps happening though. She said it is not just like that murder is just singled out. She said it is a continuous thing in this City.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is what they are trying to fix through Save Our Youth and they have to reach the youth. He said a long term solution will be reaching the youth. He said it is that simple. He said there is no short term. He said the policing ... they cannot police that type of thing. He said policing is not going to stop this. He said a point in case is that they had a homicide that happened with two police officers standing from him to that back door away ... there were two police officers in uniform and someone shot and killed another person right there. He said imagine how many police officers would have to be on duty to cover the square mileage in this City to prevent that. He said there is no way to prevent that except getting to the youth and reaching them and trying to change that mentality. He said he was an educator for 12 years and it is going to take time. He said it is not going to happen overnight. He said it is the mentality right now that needs to be changed. He said they are not going to save everyone and not going to eliminate the crime. He said it is not just in McKeesport. He said go home tonight and watch whatever news channel and she will see shootings somewhere.
- Ms. Hudson said yes but they live here though. She said they live right here.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is what he worries about here. He said he agrees with her. He said he is not worried about everywhere else.
- Ms. Hudson said is there anything being done to solve these crimes.

- Mayor Cherepko said yes. He said unfortunately he can tell her
- Ms. Hudson said are there any leads about anything.
- Mayor Cherepko said he can tell her that the Detective Bureau works tirelessly. He said she also needs to know that when there is a homicide, the Allegheny County Bureau comes in and they now take the lead. He said even though they take the case over, he applauds the McKeesport Police Department because they are constantly still working a case where technically they are just helping the County. He said they are constantly calling the County to tell them about leads they get. He said he thinks what people don't understand is what it takes to actually get a warrant for someone's arrest. He said they have had homicides where
- Ms. Hudson said are they working on it though. She said she just wants to know that they are working on it.
- Mayor Cherepko said he can assure her of that. He said he promises her.
- Ms. Hudson said there have been so many leads that came through.
- Mayor Cherepko said here is the best way to sum this up and he asked the Chief to correct him if needed, for the most part, if they don't find a murder weapon or have someone to testify against someone or there is no forensic evidence on a murder weapon that they find ... which only happens in roughly 7 – 11% of the time ... they can't even get a warrant even though the Police Department may know who it is. He said that is the reality of what they are faced with because they can't get a warrant for an arrest. He said they had a shooting where the young man didn't die thankfully but there were 15 kids standing there on a basketball court with him and no one saw anything. He said he understands why but that is another reason they have all

these mentors and the Select Committee and they are hoping that maybe if someone doesn't trust the police or him but maybe they know her and trust her or Pastor James or someone or a coach then they will tell that person. He said they are trying to network as much as possible to try to solve these. He said people have to understand that in many cases, the police may have a pretty good idea who it is but if there is not a case for a warrant and they don't have the evidence, then it is a problem. He said that happens quite often. He said that is sad.

- Mr. Segina said they met last night and talked for forty-five minutes about this particular ordinance. He said they have not passed anything and have it in rough draft form right now. He said they welcome any citizen who wants to come forward and offer suggestions to them. He said they can leave those suggestions with the City Clerk and they would be glad to talk the suggestions over prior to adopting the ordinance for it. He said it is a very rough draft as he says because he is sure that if they do adopt this ordinance, and all it says is that the memorials have to be taken down after 14 days. He said if they see that they haven't gone far enough or have gone too far, that ordinance can be amended or repealed too. He said they are not completely done with that but it has nothing to do with her case. He said does she want to go on to abandoned houses now.
- Ms. Hudson said is there anything being done about all these abandoned houses around here.
- Mayor Cherepko said he will address that. He said that is the number one priority of his Administration and they are trying to use all the resources available to eliminate the blight. He said he believes that is part of the foundation to building a better McKeesport. He said not only is it blight but it also attracts drugs and crime. He said they do have a grant that is getting ready to be put into place up around the Cornell site. He said Cornell is now Twin Rivers School. He said they are going to take down 25 to 30 homes. He

said in addition to that they are still going after other sources. He said sometimes people don't understand that it takes \$7,000 to \$10,000 to take a home down. He said in addition to that they also, for the first time, as far back as he can remember, the City of McKeesport is going to do its own demolition. He said the City went out and purchased an excavator so they can begin doing demolition on their own which will take the cost way down. He said as far as he is concerned, the City already pays labor because they pay their employees who are on the payroll and the equipment is purchased so the only cost will be getting rid of the material. He said the excavator is in and they are waiting on the trailer and the tandem, which is a large truck to pull the trailer to get the excavator to where it needs to be. He said they are going to tackle this problem. He said it is a very large problem. He said he is very well aware of it. He said unfortunately, when they are dealing with 600 to 700 homes that need to be taken down, it will take some time. He said they are going to tackle this problem and next year they are looking into some possibilities and resources that they may be able to generate some money to do some large contracts and get 20 or 30 taken out in one area and 20 or 30 in another area. He said it all comes down to money. He said that is what they are trying to do. He said without question it is a major priority.

- Ms. Hudson said the Mayor is talking about up around Cornell School but there are abandoned properties in the City that were there before they even started that project.
- Mayor Cherepko said all over. He said just this particular grant is for the Cornell School area. He said the grant they got ... just to show her how hard they are working on it ... they went out for this grant and were denied because that entity doesn't give demolition grants. He said they had to get creative with it so they turned it into a revitalization project and called it a revitalization project of the cultural and educational sector because of the \$40 million state-of-the-art educational facility, First United Methodist Church,

McKeesport Presbyterian Church, Carnegie Library, the McKeesport Little Theater, and the Reservoir site with new homes. He said that is the starting point. He said then they are going to look for the domino effect and just continue it on down to the Seventh Ward and throughout all the City. He said there is not a Ward in the City that doesn't have a house that needs torn down. He said that includes the 12th Ward and Haler Heights where they have some issues. He said there are not nearly as many ... it might just be one or two. He said they have this issue in every single part of the City. He said unfortunately as soon as the City starts going ahead and tries to do this, like with this grant, it is amazing how many homes the Historical Society comes in and tries to make things more complicated. He said the Health Department steps in with asbestos issues and they have to do extra things. He said it is a process. He said he feels her frustration.

- Ms. Hudson said so in the meantime while they are waiting for this process, what are they supposed to do with the wildlife that runs through their yards and neighborhood.
- Mayor Cherepko said she can call the City. He said what they will do ... she will give him an address. He said they send their crews out to cut the lots if they are overgrown and attracting wildlife. He said they will do clean ups and clean out the yards. He said they will also bait the abandoned homes. He said the ordinance officers can put bait down in certain areas like sewer lines and things like that. He said those are bandaids and he realizes that. He said please don't think that he thinks this is a long-term solution because it is not. He said when the City is dealing with 600 to 700 homes that need to be torn down and will cost as much as \$5 million to \$7 million, the City is not able to budget that much money. He said in the budget last year the City might have budgeted \$100,000 for demolition. He said that is why they are trying to generate money. He said she can give him addresses of those houses. He said many times Council people give him addresses or spots and he

takes care of them. He said he counts on Council to be voices for the people and to give him addresses. He said he can't even tell them how many lots they cut this summer, it is unbelievable. He said they really cut down a lot and they are still continuing to do so at a little slower rate though.

- Ms. Hudson said all right.
- Mr. Segina said thank you Ms. Hudson.
- Ms. Hudson said so they are still working on this case.
- Mayor Cherepko said what they are going to do ... and he thinks it is in the paper because he told Michael Divittorio, the writer, and if it is okay with Council ... he apologizes for speaking on behalf of Council ... but he thought it would be a nice opportunity to meet with her at 6:15 or 6:30 p.m. at next month's meeting before the Work Session and just address this again and get some public input. He said that is why that was in the paper and he apologizes for speaking on behalf of Council but he thinks there is a need for that to get some input on that and try to address it. He said please understand ... that if she walks away with anything, please understand that this Council was not trying to be disrespectful but trying to respect the process as long as they could without hindering other people's concerns. He said they are trying to find a happy medium, not by any means ... and he knows he got calls about this where they were trying to say that they only have 14 days to grieve. He said that is so unrealistic and it is 14 days to publicly grieve on the road but he is sure she will grieve for a very long time at home or the cemetery or church or wherever it may be with her family. He said they know that by all means.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she wanted to add that she wants to thank the Mayor for coming down here and being so calm when they talked earlier and that this Council knows that Carlos was a relative of hers and unfortunately that is not the first relative that she has lost through the violence. She said she thinks it is a little more personal for her

because she is constantly going to wakes and constantly going to funerals and constantly going to these things. She said nobody here at all ... last night or the month before when they talked about this ... was trying to be insensitive at all. She said nobody here at all even brought up anyone's name or anything like that at all. She said she wanted to commend Ms. Hudson for at least coming down here and speaking up on this issue.

- Ms. Hudson said she is not just speaking for Carlos. She said she is saying he had seven kids. She said who is going to help her or help their mother look after these kids, these boys. She said Jan Randolph too. She said she just wants to leave here and ask that they please solve something. She said please. She said just solve something. She said they say word out on the street is ... if you want to kill someone ... bring them to McKeesport, they are going to find out nothing. She said she is just saying that is the word on the street.
- Mayor Cherepko said he doesn't know ... once again he doesn't want to end this on a bad note and he thinks they are ending this on a decent note. He said the reality of it is and he thinks he already said this that he can assure her that the City's police have a pretty good understanding of many of the homicides and who committed them. He said unfortunately they can't arrest them. He said it is the system they are in. He said it is not a matter that they didn't solve it, it is a matter of getting the evidence. He said it is sad. He said he is out in the middle of the night and talking to former students and talking to these kids that he sees and unbelievably some of them are individuals that they believe have committed murders. He said he is having conversations with some of the establishments late at night when he is on the streets. He said it is not that McKeesport can't do it, it is that they don't have the evidence or the proof to get a warrant. He said they can't even get a warrant and the Chief or District Attorney will tell her that they can't get a warrant for an arrest even though they

know. He said what happens is that most of the time they have people tell them stories and they know what happened but they won't go on the record with that and they won't testify so they cannot use that information. He said once they put the pieces of the puzzle together and one person tells them something and another person and another person, the police can put the information together and say okay they have have an idea who it is but they don't have the proof. He said that is the hard part.

- Mr. Segina said thank you for coming here.
- Ms. Hudson said thank you.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE #13-20 – BILL #140: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING A SECTION 3 PLAN TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL LAW IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

MOTION: **Mr. Dellapenna moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #140."**

COMMENTS:

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she has a comment. She said this is for the purposes of the audience and then a couple of comments. She said they talked about Bill #140 last night and basically Section 3 states that when the City is dealing with HUD funding, which is federal funding, then the contractors they give contracts to should hire City residents ... low income City residents. She said she wants to commend Mr. Tedesco, who is their Community Development Director, for this but she also wants to ask Mr. Tedesco how this is going to be implemented. She said inside here it says something about HUD YouthBuild. She

said her question is how are they going to implement Section 3. She said she brought that up last night and she is looking for specifics for how they are going to make sure ... are they going to have a YouthBuild program and how are they going to make sure that is implemented.

- Mr. Elash said in Section 3 there are provisions that are put right into every contract. He said every contract that uses CDBG funds ... if she looks on page 12 of the policy, all of these provisions have to be put in the contract and it specifically says that any jobs that need to be filled from the time the contract is awarded to the time it is started have to be aimed at Section 3 individuals and there are a bunch of conditions. He said really the only implementation of this particular policy is in the contracts and those clauses are put in there. He said he thinks there are a bunch of them in there and they relate to all aspects of the policy.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said so outside of it being in the contract, is there any followup to make sure that this is being done.
- Mr. Segina said HUD follows up.
- Mr. Tedesco said they are required to monitor all of the progress when any type of federal funds are used, they are required to monitor the project.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said okay, so what about the HUD YouthBuild program. She said is that something that they are looking to start up or what.
- Mr. Tedesco said realistically, Section 3 applies if they were going to start any type of construction project on their own. He said he can't recall the last time the City of McKeesport did a construction project. He said if funds became available and they were going to start something then they would go that route. He said as of right now, he is not aware of any funds that are available for construction.

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said that has nothing to do with any particular ordinance. She said that is something she would like to talk with Mr. Tedesco further about. She said she doesn't know how many funds they would exactly need to start a HUD Youth Build Program. She said she does know the Community Development Block Grant funds are already earmarked for certain Community Development projects but there is some portion of that money that will be left. She said she thinks they should utilize that money for programs like a HUD Youth Build or to pave some of these streets they have or to give some money to tear down one of these houses. She said that money is supposed to be utilized in the community and in certain segments of the community as well.
- Mayor Cherepko said is she talking about the money that is left in the CDBG.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said yes, that is what she is talking about.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is exactly where it goes. He said pretty much when they are done ... and Mr. Segina said it well last night ... in regards to the fact that \$350,000 goes toward the debt, \$100,000 for a loan here and at the end of the day they are sitting with probably somewhere around \$100,000. He said he can tell her since he has been in office, they have used that for demolition and paving. He said last year they did a big paving project off of Sumac and Freemont. He said they did Stewart Street and even an alley back there and a big portion up there. He said that was what was done last year. He said this year there is still ... he forgets how much money is available this year. He said he thinks they only have about \$16,000 left this year but they are going to do some paving. He said they will pave a road or two and go as far as the money will take them. He said it is a very small amount of money left over in the CDBG because the CDBG budget has been cut over the years. He said when he first got on Council it was about

\$1.5 million and it has dropped to \$900,000. He said it is slowly coming down.

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she would like to see it utilized for paving. She said there are still some streets....
- Mayor Cherepko said he agrees, there are a lot.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said if he rides through Crawford up Pirl Street or through what used to be known as the Circle or the Seventh Ward on Bailey and Federal. She said the streets are horrible. She said they are really bad and they have been that way for a number of years. She said she would like to see it utilized in the areas where it really needs to be used.
- Mayor Cherepko said he agrees.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said they should start some kind of Youth program. She said most of the agencies and organizations they have in this City that do Youth programs, do them with no budget. She said any little bit of money that they can throw their way, she thinks they should. She said it is a Community Development Block Grant fund. She said it should be used for the community.
- Mr. Segina said how long do they have on some of these loans that they took out for City Equipment before they are paid off.
- Mayor Cherepko said he would have to look. He said he doesn't know if the Chief knows. He said he thinks that the boat is about done. He said is the boat close to being done. He said he doesn't know off-hand.
- Mr. Segina said are most of these five years, ten years or what. He said are they three, five and ten.
- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks they are three or five years.
- Chief Lust said the boat was three.

- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks the boat might be done now.
- Chief Lust said he thinks it is done this year.
- Mayor Cherepko said keep in mind that they just put the \$105,000 payment a year to purchase the equipment for Public Works. He said they bought the new truck, the excavator He said that is not
- Chief Lust said the boat was \$89,000 a year.
- Mayor Cherepko said this will be \$105,000 a year but once again, the cost of the vehicles, repairing them He said they were driving almost antiques. He said the trucks that were plowing the streets were almost 20 years old. He said they had to go out and purchase new ones. He said it is not that they had the money but they had to go out and take a loan to buy two new large trucks, a one-ton truck, and an excavator for demolition. He said that payment is \$105,000 a year and that is now coming out of CD also. He said he thinks it might be because of what she just said. He said the boat is now probably done and they just replaced that with the equipment.
- Mr. Segina said they are not buying any more boats are they.
- Chief Lust said no sir.

RC-4 YEAS: BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-
 MONTGOMERY, SOLES, SEGINA, CARR,
 DELLAPENNA..... 6

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

- Mr. Malinchak said thank you Mr. President. He said he has a couple of comments because they are coming to the end

of the year and he was taking a look at the budget. He said there are some interesting numbers that they should be aware of. He said it is his understanding ... there are some items here that may be of interest and that they should be aware of. He said he noticed that the host fee has not yet been received and it is his understanding that it comes in at the end of the year which is good. He said he also noticed that at this point in time they are running about \$550,000 in revenue exceeding expenses. He said but on the other hand when they look back here, there is a real concern here because there is close to \$1.9 million worth of MMO's that are coming due. He said there are some difficulties here gentlemen.

- Mayor Cherepko said absolutely.
- Mr. Malinchak said he also realized the overtime is pretty high and also the buybacks. He said they have some balancing acts to do. He said part of this will be offset with the \$1 million. He said it looks to him like they are sitting about \$1.5 million in good shape and there might be over \$2 million in expenses coming up.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is correct. He said they have the MMO payment which is a very large payment.
- Mr. Malinchak said it is about \$1.9 million.
- Mayor Cherepko said it is \$1.2 million ... he said about \$1.2 comes from the City. He said there is an income of \$700,000.
- Mr. Malinchak said he is just looking at the expense side.
- Mayor Cherepko said that is a very large one. He said that is where in their mind they are saying when the sewage authority brings that money in at the end of the year He said Mr. Gergely just started making some payments back on the T.A. Note also. He said they still owe that also. He said Mr. Malinchak needs to know there is money owed on that.

- Mr. Malinchak said what do they have left right now. He said he is talking about the account with M & T Bank.
- Mayor Cherepko said there is some money available in there which they will probably tap into. He said that was coming each year and they may have to hit that at the end of the year. He said they also have money in the reserve. He said there is definitely a concern. He said he has been telling them this all along.
- Mr. Malinchak said what is the Mayor's prognosis right now.
- Mayor Cherepko said his prognosis is that they will probably have to come up with \$1.5 to \$2 million to finish the year.
- Mr. Malinchak said that much.
- Mr. Segina said he thinks last month he mentioned this in his report
- Mayor Cherepko said he hopes it will be closer to \$1 million.
- Mr. Segina said he knew the gravity of the situation and how they should start instituting ... and it might be too late ... austere measures. He said he just wants to reiterate what he said last month and he won't repeat it. He said some people said he talked too long. He said he thought it was just that important of an issue. He said being that it is brought up tonight, he is glad other people are seeing it as it is important.
- Mr. Malinchak said is Mr. Segina done. He said he doesn't know the exact amount of money they have in that M & T account to get tapped. He said the last time he looked it was several million but he knows they have tapped it some since then. He said have they looked at the possibility that maybe ... and Mr. Elash may have to chime in here ... that they are not really compelled to pay off that \$9.7 million bond that is going to retire in 2014.
- Mayor Cherepko said they have to.

- Mr. Malinchak said is that mandatory.
- Mayor Cherepko said it is mandatory.
- Mr. Elash said when they entered into that agreement to set up the escrow account, the bond insurance payments, required them to make those payments.
- Mayor Cherepko said and their debt service. He said that keep in mind
- Mr. Elash said once that money was earmarked to pay those bonds off in future years, they don't have to pay the bond insurance on it anymore. He said that is how they leveraged that money by putting it away to pay the bonds that were due in the future years.
- Mr. Malinchak said but it is mandatory that they have to retire those bonds.
- Mr. Elash said it is not mandatory, it is mandatory to the point where if they did not retire them, they would have to pay bond insurance going back three years which would probably not make much sense. He said then they would be spending the money and still have the bond.
- Mayor Cherepko said don't forget too, it would not be just the insurance but the debt service payment because they allocated that money and it went down from \$187,000 to only \$50,000. He said when they allocated that money is going towards those bonds. He said that is why they only end up with about a \$600,000 debt service payment whereas prior to that they were \$2.1 to \$2.2 million.
- Mr. Elash said they pulled that trigger already but they could not pay off bonds, because they can't pay bonds off early.
- Mayor Cherepko said you can't pay bonds off early.
- Mr. Malinchak said he understands. He said they have to reach their callable date.

- Mayor Cherepko said Mr. Malinchak understands.
- Mr. Malinchak said from what he is looking at now, the City typically historically finish the year somewhere between \$500,000 and \$700,000 in the red. He said assuming they do that again, it still looks to him that they are facing a \$1 million problem. He said he is just doing a quick calculation.
- Mayor Cherepko said yes, no. He said he thinks it is \$1 million in addition to that \$500,000 or \$700,000. He said that is why he is coming up with the \$1.5 to \$2 million. He said just this year alone
- Mr. Malinchak said when he says \$1.5 million, is that already assuming that they are going to have a \$600,000 deficit or is the deficit not included.
- Mayor Cherepko said his guess of the total number is ... and he is estimating worst case scenario because he doesn't want to say it is \$1.5 million and it ends up \$2 million. He said he is hoping that it is closer ... he hopes between now and the end of the year, he comes to this Council to pull \$1.5 million out of reserves. He said that is what he is hoping. He said it may be as high as \$2 million.
- Mr. Malinchak said what reserves would he tap.
- Mayor Cherepko said they have some funds available but not many. He said they have some funds available yet in M & T Bank and that is going to wean them off in future years.
- Mr. Malinchak said they don't have \$1.5 million in M & T, do they right now.
- Mayor Cherepko said there is a little less.
- Mr. Malinchak said he thinks they have a difficult problem here.
- Mr. Segina said the point is that they cannot continue to go on like this with these large deficits. He said the money

they are pulling out of those reserves, they see nothing for. He said the only thing they are doing is paying off the debt that they have accrued. He said that is the sad part about it. He said the money that was in those reserves could have been used for something within the City itself. He said that is his complaint about it. He said all they are doing is paying off debt. He said someone has to sit down and take a long look at this and maybe go to the Delta Development and try to come up with some solutions as to where this City is going financially and

- Mayor Cherepko said Mr. Segina
- Mr. Segina said ... before they get any further deeper in debt.
- Mayor Cherepko said he can assure Mr. Segina that they are not getting deeper in debt, they are ... he is confused with what Mr. Segina just said and he has no idea what he said because it didn't make any sense.
- Mr. Segina said he can't explain it because he doesn't understand himself.
- Mayor Cherepko said the bottom line is when they start talking about deeper in debt, they went from \$30 million in debt to \$11 million. He said if Mr. Segina wants to talk about the deficit increasing every year, that is correct. He said the deficit has increased every year because they are faced with ever rising expenditures from year to year and they don't even keep the revenues ... for the most part decreasing revenues. He said but even if they keep the revenues the same ... for example this year alone ... he will give him two numbers of where this debt came from this year and Mr. Malinchak just hit on one of them. He said the MMO cost to the City went up \$700,000 from last year. He said there is \$700,000 more debt that they had to come up with this year. He said in addition to that they lost \$300,000 on the revenue side because they had a COPS Grant that ended last year. He said they were receiving

\$280,000 in COPS Grants. He said there is a \$1 million deficit in just those two numbers that they accrued.

- Mr. Malinchak said why doesn't he add the other one that he is going to discuss. He said why doesn't he talk about the increase in health insurance. He said why doesn't he talk about that.
- Mayor Cherepko said and now they are looking at next year with a health insurance bid that has been thrown out at a \$801,000 increase. He said it is anywhere from a 40 – 60% increase on the healthcare.
- Mr. Malinchak said thank you. He said he doesn't think they have ever had a discussion this long as long as Mike has been Mayor. He said this is a good discussion. He said maybe what they are talking about is not good to people but they understand the problems and that is half the issue.
- Mayor Cherepko said he wants to assure Council that this is not something that he did not take this ... they are not sitting around not coming up with a solution. He said they are coming up with a solution and are at the very beginning stages. He said they are going to meet regularly with Council. He said in addition, it will not be a Council meeting. He said his plan is in December ... probably not the holiday time ... but come January or February at the latest, they will be meeting in the middle of the month just for a meeting that the public can attend and for Council to know exactly what they are doing to save the City financially. He said he needs them to know that they have been working on this for over a year now and it is something they have spent countless hours on. He said they have expertise at all levels and he is going to keep it all open to Council as soon as they get this open. He said they are getting close to where they can come in and present the plan. He said right now there are a couple of different options. He said Council will be kept in the loop the whole way through this and the public will be kept in the loop. He said it is the financial plan that he has to save the City. He said if it doesn't happen, the

City is out of business. He said there is no other way. He said it is basic arithmetic that they just talked about. He said he will keep them in the loop and they will be well aware of everything and so will the public.

- Mr. Malinchak said thank you for that discussion unless the Mayor has anything else.
- Mayor Cherepko said thank you.
- Mr. Malinchak said does Mr. Gergely have anything.
- Mr. Gergely said no.
- Mr. Malinchak said he recommends that Council approve bills in the amount of \$39,588.80.

MOTION: **Mr. Dellapenna moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$39,588.80."**

RC-5	YEAS:	BREWSTER-FILOTEI, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, SOLES, SEGINA, CARR, DELLAPENNA.....	6
	NAYS:	NONE.....	0

ADJOURNMENT:

President of Council Segina adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Patricia A. Williams
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

Darryl Segina
President of Council

daw